Functionalism and Qualia - Alex Wirtz

Abstract:
Minds are fascinating things. Somehow we experience things called qualia, like the blue of the sky or the taste of coffee, that we cannot seem to easily fit into neurons. Our brains are made up of very complex neural networks, but it seems that even though we can explain that we taste salt, the philosophical foundation for why we taste anything at all or why it tastes salty seems difficult. Functionalism is a theory of mind that describes mental functions, but it still seems not to properly account for qualia in a necessary sense. I believe that by reworking our concepts, we can approach an account of qualia.

Biography:
I am a fifth-semester sophomore at UWW, particularly interested in philosophy, politics, and gender studies. This school year, I served as the secretary for the newly re-formed Pride Alliance on campus. My largest regret is not being able to bilocate. Firefly should never have been canceled.